

# The Art of

Compiled by GJF de Marais

# Earl Kulp Bergey





## EARLE BERGEY

(1901-1962)

"Earle" Bergey was born Earl Kulp Bergey on August 28, 1901 in Philadelphia, PA.

His father was A. Frank Bergey and his mother was Ella Kulp Bergey. There were six children in the family. Earl was the fifth born. They lived at 2344 Twelfth Street. His father was a musical band director, as well as a musician.

He finished high school in 1919, but he was too young to serve in World War I. He began to work as an artist for a Philadelphia newspaper publisher. He lived with his mother and two siblings at 4312 Eighth Street, while his father lived separately at 1115 West Dauphin Street.

From 1921 to 1926 he attended night classes at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. However, he is not listed as having ever been a full-time art student or having graduated the school.

He continued his work for newspapers and by 1927 he was drawing a comic strip called *Deb Days* for *The Philadelphia Ledger*.

His father died in 1928. With his father's life insurance his mother was able to buy a home for fifteen thousand dollars at 468 Township Line in Horsham, PA, Montgomery County, where there was room for him and three siblings and a brother-in-law.

In 1934 he married his wife, Elizabeth Bergey, and in 1935 they moved to Doylestown, PA, in Bucks County, to raise a family. They had three children, Earle & Joanne, who were twins, and John. It was a pleasure to have his own home, because at age thirty-five he was finally able to work in his own private art studio space.





A SERIES OF TEN STORIES COMING IN THE NEXT  
**STARTLING STORIES**





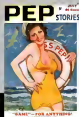
During the Great Depression, newspaper circulation was being hit hard. At the same time, pulp magazines were finding new opportunities. Startling, a city pulp magazine published by the Hearst Corporation, entered their most profitable period. The magazine covers were illustrated by artists, such as Gary Bock, Howard Chaykin, Snappy, and Brief Stories.

He then sold freelance pulp covers to the Thrilling Group publications, which was owned by Ned Pines, such as Captain Future, Exciting Football, Startling Stories, Thrilling Sports, and Thrilling Wonder.

Nothing is known of his military service during World War II, but on November 27, 1945 a Staff Sergeant in the Army Corps of Engineers, named Earle Bergoy of Pennsylvania and aged forty-five, is recorded to have sailed on the Queen Mary with thousands of returning troops from England to New York City.

By 1948 the owner of the Thrilling Group, Ned Pines, was producing Popular Library paperback books. Many of these covers were assigned to Earle Bergoy. Bergoy was a friend of the art editor, Churchill Edinger, a former illustrator for the New York Sunday World. In addition, Bergoy was also paid with another pulp illustrator from Pennsylvania, Rudy Bolenski.





The three friends would frequently get together for lunch and discuss ideas for paperback book covers, while creating the influential look of

Popular Library paperbacks from 1948 to 1962. Bergey's most notable contribution to this heritage was - *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* -.

Besides Popular Library, he also illustrated paperback book covers for other publishers, such as Avon Books, Lion Books, and Pocket Books.

Earle Bergoy died unexpectedly while undergoing a stress test on his heart in a doctor's office at age fifty-one on September 30, 1962.





**Earle Bergey** was an American freelance illustrator in the 1930's who painted a large volume of striking covers for pulp magazines and paperbacks. His images of scantily-clad women wearing metallic-like bikini tops gave rise to the phrase "the girl in the brass bra" and may have even inspired Princess Leia's gold bikini ensemble in Return of the Jedi. Here is a classic Bergey cover for Startling Stories (Jan 1950) featuring the iconic Bergey female being kidnapped by a nasty-looking, laser-gun-shooting robot.



Earle Bergey is renowned for his science fiction magazine covers for Standard Publishers' pulps. These saucy scenes showcased women in space helmets and bikinis or skin-tight outfits. In 1948, Bergey made a transition to the rapidly-growing paperback book cover market. He worked primarily for Popular Library and later for Pocket Books. His art graced the covers of dozens of novels, and perhaps his most famous cover was the superb montage for "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

*Earle Bergey*

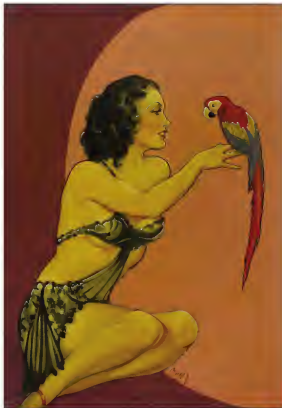








Girl with Mirror - 1933



# La Paree

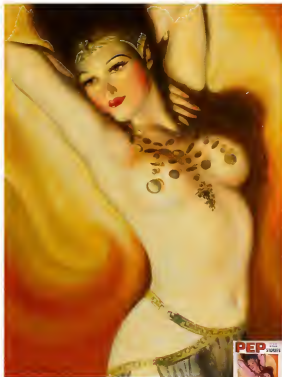
## STORIES



### "BURNING SANDS"

By  
**Henri  
Lamoreaux**

« La Paree Stories » — Juillet 1934



Couverture de « Pep Stories » Avril 1936





Couverture de « Pep Stories » Juillet 1938



« Bedtime Stories » - 1938





« Gentlemen  
Prefer  
Blondes »,  
circa 1950,  
original  
paperback  
cover  
illustration  
Oil on board  
19-1/4 x 14-  
1/4in

Original  
paperback  
book cover  
illustration for  
Gentlemen  
Prefer  
Blondes by  
Anita Loos  
Popular  
Library #221,  
New York,  
1950



# « Gentlemen prefer Blondes » by Anita Loos.- 1950

Earle Bergey is renowned for his  
science fiction magazine covers for  
Standard Publishers' pulps. These  
saucy scenes showcased women in  
space helmets and bikinis or skin-  
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Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.



Ten of Hearts









« Sailor Girl » - 1933



« Matador » - 1933

# GAY PARISIENNE

AUGUST



25  
Cents



## A Sister to Assist Her

By Franc Arnette



« Gay Parisienne » - 1934



« Sport Story Magazine »  
Carl Hubbell  
1934



Rise and Shine - 1934



# TATTLE TALES

25¢



JULY, 1935



**STAR BOARDER • SHOP TALK**

By Richard Denevan

By Tom Kane

• Tattle Tales • -1935

# BEDTIME Stories

OCTOBER

25

Cents

**NOT SO  
DUMB**

*By  
Nick Fullford*



« Bedtime Stories » - 1935

# PEP



**JULY**  
**25 Cents**

## STORIES



**"GAME"—FOR ANYTHING!**

By **ARTHUR WALLACE**

«Pep Stories» - 1935

# TATTLE TALES

25¢

FALL EDITION, 1938



Hollywood Extra Girl :: By ROBERT L. BELLEM

« Tattle Tales » - 1935



« Pretty as a Peacock », - 1935



# THE FOUR-GRAND KISS

Unimpossible  
Non! Coubertin  
Est Jack is He  
Escape to Paris  
Coubertin's  
She Asked Him!

« Gay Book », The Four-Grand Kiss - 1936



Couverture de « Pep Stories »

Avril 1936



March, 1937

# GAY BOOK



FICTION • PHOTOGRAPHS • CARTOONS • BOOKS • THEATRE • WHIMSY



# • GAY • BROADWAY

FALL EDITION

25 Cents

**Fortunes  
Of Love**

*By*  
**TOM KANE**



20c

AUG.

# REAL Screen Fun



« Real Screen Fun » - 1938

20c

SEPT.

# REAL ScreenFun



Posed by  
EDNA MAYE

« Real Screen Fun » - 1938

# The *Stocking* Parade

JULY  
15¢

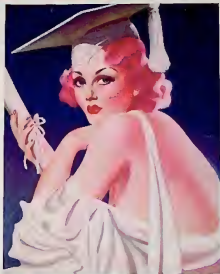


• Stocking Parade • - 1938

# PEP

JUNE  
25 Cents

## STORIES



TOBY TACKLES TROUBLE # by JACK ARNOLD

\* Pep Stories \* - July 1938



« Gay Parisienne » - November 1939

# 1940's



« Boyfriend on a String » - 1940

A NOVEL OF THE FUTURE COMPLETE IN THIS ISSUE

# STARTLING STORIES

NOV.

15¢



« Startling Stories » - November 1940

THRILLING 1st ISSUE  
**WONDER**  
STORIES

15¢



A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION

**POCKET  
UNIVERSES**  
*An Astonishing  
Novel*  
By **MURRAY  
LEINSTER**

**CALL  
HIM DEMON**  
*A Fantastic Novel*  
By **KEITH HAMMOND**

THE *Multillionth* **CHANCE**  
*An Amazing Complete Novel* By **JOHN RUSSELL FERN**



« Startling Stories » - June 1943

# CARTOON

*humor*

WINTER  
1944



TRENT

SCHUB

ROSS

WOLFE

LARIAH

MYNARD

KELLER

BERMAN

MACRAHER

SHELLHASE

JOHNSON

TOWNSEND

# CARTOON

*humor*

25¢  
WINTER  
ISSUE

WACHSBER  
SHELLMERE  
MARRONI  
HERMAN  
ANGELO  
BROWN  
GELDER  
SCHLES  
TODDY  
TODDY  
HOLD  
BELL



« Cartoon Humor » - 1945



« Startling Stories » - Winter 1945

A SCIENTIFCTION NOVEL COMPLETE IN THIS ISSUE!

# STARTLING STORIES

MAY

A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION



**LANDS  
OF THE  
EARTHQUAKE**

*An Amazing  
Complete Novel*  
By **HENRY  
KUTTNER**

**THE DISC-MEN OF JUPITER**

*A Hall of Fame Novel*  
By **MARLY WADE WILLMAN**

« Starling Stories » - May 1947

A SCIENTIFICTION NOVEL COMPLETE IN THIS ISSUE!

# STARTLING STORIES

15¢

JULY

1947

A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION

THE LIFE  
DETOUR

A Hall of Fame  
Classic  
By DAVID  
H. MEYER

*The*  
**KINGDOM  
OF THE  
BLIND**

*An Amazing  
Complete Novel*  
By GEORGE  
O. SMITH

« Startling Stories » - July 1947



« Wonder Stories » - 1947



« Thrilling Wonder Stories - April 1947



« Thrilling Wonder Stories » - October 1947

# CARTOON *humor*

25¢

SPRING  
1947

|           |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| MACHAMER  | TOBEY  | LARIAR |
| SHELLHASE | WENZEL | ROSS   |
| TRUMBATH  | SHAFER | BERRY  |
| MARKOW    | HIFMAN | KELLER |



« Cartoon Humor » -1947

# CARTOON *humor*

25¢

SUMMER  
ISSUE



ROSS  
BRET  
TERRY  
SCHUB  
KELLER  
PRISCILLA  
MARKOW  
KAUFMAN  
WACHNER  
AND OTHERS

• Cartoon Humor • -1948

# THRILLING Love

AGE  
15¢

GLORY IN  
THE SUN

By JEAN  
FRANCIS WEBB

A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION



*Bayou Angel*  
By DORIS KNIGHT

# THRILLING Love

MAY  
15¢



A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION

RUNAWAY  
HEARTS

By JERROLD BEIM

*Savage in Satin*

By ETHEL HAMILL

« Thrilling Love » - 1948





« Startling Stories » - May 1948



« Startling Stories » - July 1948

FEB.  
15¢

POPULAR

A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION

# LOVE



« Popular Love » - 1949

# THRILLING WONDER STORIES

NOV.  
25c



A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION

SHARE IN CANADA'S FUTURE: BUY SAVINGS BONDS

«Thrilling Stories» - 1949

# 1950's



« Thrilling Love » - 1950





« Thrilling Wonder Stories » - 1950



WNC

JAN.  
25¢

# STARTLING STORIES

FEATURING

*THE* **SHADOW  
MEN**

*An Astonishing  
New Novel*

*By* **A. E.  
VAN VOGT**

IN THIS ISSUE

**THE RETURN OF  
CAPTAIN FUTURE**

*A Curt Newton Novellet*  
**By EDMOND HAMILTON**

A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION

«Startling Stories» - January 1950

CME

MAR.  
25¢

# STARTLING STORIES

A THRILLING  
PUBLICATION



FEATURING

## *The Lady is A WITCH*

*An Astonishing Novel  
By NORMAN A. DANIELS*

## **MEN MUST DIE**

*A Hall of Fame Novelet by WARD HAWKINS*

• Startling Stories • - 1950



« Fantastic Story Quarterly » - 1951



« Startling Stories » - 1951

**THRILLING**  
AND  
**WONDER**  
**STORIES**

25¢  
AUG.

FEATURING: TWO SHORT NOVELS  
**ALARM REACTION**  
By **RAYMOND F. JONES**

**EARTHLIGHT**  
By **ARTHUR C. CLARKE**



« Startling Stories » - 1951





• Fantastic Story Magazine • - Sommer 1951

POPULAR  
LIBRARY

The Book Everyone Is Talking About

32A

# BEHIND THE FLYING SAUCERS



• Behind the flying Saucers • by Frank Scull - 1951



"The Robot Empire Number 3" (and last number)  
Of the "Avon Science Fiction Readers" - 1952

# FANTASTIC STORY MAGAZINE

JAN. 25c

A.R.C.

Featuring:

**A YANK AT VALHALLA**

By EDMOND HAMILTON

**THE ETERNAL NOW**

By Murray Leinster

**THE MERMAN**

By L. Sprague de Camp

**THE CASE OF  
JACK FREYSLING**

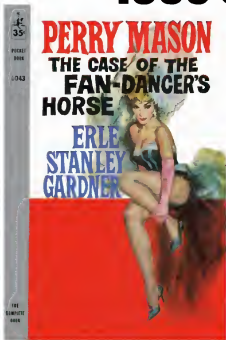
By Thomas L. McClary



A THUNDER  
PUBLICATION

"Fantastic Story Magazine" - 1 January 1953

# 1960's



"The Case of the Fan-Dancer's Horse" - 1960